

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	Benin
Program Title:	Governance Program
Pillar:	Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance
Strategic Objective:	680-003
Status:	Continuing
Proposed FY 2003 Obligation:	\$923,000 DA
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$50,000 ESF
Proposed FY 2004 Obligation:	\$862,000 DA
Year of Initial Obligation:	FY 1996
Estimated Completion Date:	FY 2005

Summary: USAID promotes better governance by providing training and technical assistance to members of local government, local non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and community groups. This assistance supports decentralization and devolution of authorities to local communities to strengthen the fight against corruption, improve the productivity of small farmers and producers in targeted areas of Benin, and reinforce the capacities of local microfinance institutions.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2003 Program:

Increase Participation and Management Capacities of Local Governments and Civil Society (\$94,000 DA; \$50,000 ESF). USAID will train local NGOs in four regions of Benin to enhance their advocacy skills so that they will have more influence on the delivery of health and education services in communities. Locally elected officials and their staff will receive training on topics such as effective decision-making processes, budget planning and management. Local NGOs will receive small grants to organize civic education campaigns to prepare Beninese citizens to participate more actively in community development projects. USAID will also support activities to encourage Beninese women to participate in decision-making within their communities. Principal Contractors, Grantees or Agencies: National Democratic Institute, International Foundation for Election Systems, Research Triangle Institute.

Enhance the Fight against Corruption (\$244,000 DA). USAID will provide public auditors from Government of Benin (GOB) audit institutions with computer equipment and training in six specialized areas, including a course on U.S. Government audit standards, to enable them to better audit public accounts. In addition, 22 public auditors will receive English language training to enable them to audit U.S.-funded projects. Three auditors will take a study tour to the United States. To keep up the anti-corruption momentum, local NGOs will receive grants to undertake civic education campaigns, public and school debates and dissemination of information on the negative effects of corruption on the nation's economy. Principal Contractors, Grantees or Agencies: GOB Office of the Inspector General of Finance, the Chamber of Accounts of the Supreme Court, and local NGOs to be determined.

Increase Productivity of Small-scale Farmers and Traders (\$585,000 DA). Technical assistance will be provided for the construction and use of farming and food processing equipment to improve production of many small-scale farmers. USAID will promote a partnership between a U.S. NGO and a Beninese edible oil manufacturing company to promote production of sunflower oil. This activity will benefit at least 1,500 small farmers. USAID will provide computers and training to the GOB microfinance unit and two local microfinance institutions that reach out to more than 100,000 small-scale traders. This support will enable the two institutions to offer better services and technical assistance to their clients and improve their oversight skills so they can advocate for a better micro-finance regulatory and policy environment. Principal Grantee: Enterprise Works Worldwide. Local microfinance institution - To be determined.

P.L. 480 Title II Assistance. Private funds and proceeds from sales of commodities will be used to provide small loans to 4,400 clients of village banks. Literacy lessons will be made available to 2,640 clients to enable them to better manage their loans. Principal grantee: Catholic Relief Services.

FY 2004 Program:

Increase Participation and Management Capacities of Local Governments and Civil Society (\$452,000 DA). USAID will train more local NGOs in four regions of Benin to enhance their advocacy skills so that they will have more influence on the delivery of community health and education services. Local NGOs will receive small grants to organize civic education campaigns to increase Beninese citizen participation in local development projects. Funding will continue for activities to encourage women to participate in decision-making within their localities. Local communities and development groups will receive computers and Internet connection to help them conduct research on community development initiatives elsewhere. Principal Contractors, Grantees or Agencies: To be determined.

Enhance the Fight against Corruption (\$260,000 DA). USAID will continue to provide training to public auditors from GOB audit institutions. Local NGOs will receive grants to conduct civic education campaigns and other activities aimed at curbing corruption. Principal Contractors, Grantees or Agencies: Office of the Inspector General of Finance and the Chamber of Accounts of the Supreme Court.

Increase Productivity of Small-scale Farmers and Traders (\$150,000 DA). Technical assistance to local farmers to improve production will continue. USAID will encourage public-private alliances with Beninese businesses to promote collaboration between large-scale transformation businesses and small-scale farmers. Agricultural groups will receive technical assistance for the promotion of market opportunities. Local farmers associations will receive computer equipment and training to enable them to conduct research on methods of food production. FY 2003 activities to support the GOB microfinance unit and four local microfinance institutions will be continued in 2004. Principal contractors, grantees or agencies: Enterprise Works Worldwide (U.S. PVO) and locally based NGOs (to be determined).

P.L. 480 Title II Assistance. Private funds and proceeds from sales of commodities will be used to provide small loans to 5,000 village bank clients. Three thousand of these clients will receive training that enables them to better manage their loans. Principal contractors, grantees or agencies: Catholic Relief Services.

Performance and Results: To promote greater transparency and accountability within the public service, USAID trained auditors of Supreme Audit Institutions. These government institutions have recruited 22 additional public auditors. It is estimated that by the end of December 2002 a total of 210 accounts had been audited. Public auditors verified the level of reliability of data collected through the National Health Information System and evaluated procurement and property management systems of USAID-funded projects. To support the promotion of local development, USAID funded civic education campaigns on the advantages of local governance. These activities resulted in local NGOs leading citizens to successfully press the government to conduct much-delayed municipal elections in December 2002. In addition, the local media lobbied for Benin's media regulatory body to relax stringent controls over broadcasting of political debates during elections. In the small business development sector, USAID grantees provided small loans to more than 8,000 poor women. Small-scale farmers had access to more modern technologies. More poor rural people received small loans under the USAID-funded food aid program. Village banking activities reached 4,952 clients of 35 village banks and 2,807 clients received training in financial management. The empowerment and security of increased family income, access to better technology, and banking and financial management skills provided more women and men with the confidence and means to engage and influence local leaders with their issues and positions on local development agendas.

Targets for microfinance, transparency, governance and small business development are expected to be met by the end of the strategy in FY 2005.

US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

Benin

680-003 Governance Program	DA	DFA	ESF
Through September 30, 2001			
Obligations	9,479	813	450
Expenditures	7,123	813	356
Unliquidated	2,356	0	94
Fiscal Year 2002			
Obligations	1,982	0	350
Expenditures	1,422	0	78
Through September 30, 2002			
Obligations	11,461	813	800
Expenditures	8,545	813	434
Unliquidated	2,916	0	366
Prior Year Unobligated Funds			
Obligations	0	0	50
Planned Fiscal Year 2003 NOA			
Obligations	923	0	0
Total Planned Fiscal Year 2003			
Obligations	923	0	50
Proposed Fiscal Year 2004 NOA			
Obligations	862	0	0
Future Obligations	3,000	0	0
Est. Total Cost	16,246	813	850